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## National push to bolster security of key election technology

**By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY**  
**Associated Press**  
**ATLANTA (AP)** — An effort to create a national testing program for technology central to U.S. elections will be launched later this year, aiming to strengthen the security of equipment that has been targeted by foreign governments and provided fertile ground for conspiracy theories. So far, states have been left on their own to evaluate the technology that provides the backbone of election operations: voter registration databases, websites used to report unofficial results on election night and electronic pollbooks, which

are used instead of paper rolls to check in voters at polling places. The non-profit Center for Internet Security hopes to provide the nation's first uniform testing program for the technology, similar to one for voting machines. Its goal is to start the voluntary service in September as a way to help boost the security and reliability of the technology before the 2024 presidential election. In 2020, 15 states, including Arizona, Florida and Nevada, did not require any type of electronic pollbook testing or certification, according to federal data.

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Electronic poll book kit that voters will use to sign in at polling locations at the Albany County Board of Elections building, Oct. 14, 2020, in Albany, N.Y.

Associated Press

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# National push to bolster security of key election technology

Continued from Front

"This is a critical need being filled at a critical time," said Chris Wlaschin, senior vice president for Election Systems & Software, a leading voting machine manufacturer that also produces electronic pollbooks. "I think as more election officials learn about it, the more they're going to ask for it."

The use of electronic pollbooks in particular has expanded rapidly in recent years. Nearly one-third of all voting jurisdictions in the U.S. used electronic pollbooks in 2020, compared with about 18% four years earlier, according to data collected by federal Election Assistance Commission.



**Mark Splonskowski assembles electronic poll book kits that voters will use to sign in at polling locations at the Albany County Board of Elections building, Oct. 14, 2020, in Albany, N.Y.**

**Associated Press**

The systems bring unique security challenges. In many cases, they have internet connections or interact with systems that do. In counties with a vote center model, where registered voters can cast a ballot

at any polling place, electronic pollbooks often communicate with each other and with the central voter registration system. That's one way to ensure people are not able to vote at multiple locations or vote

in-person after returning a mail ballot.

How much of an effect the new testing program will have on the 2024 presidential election is yet to be determined. Much depends on how many technology providers sign up and how many state election offices will use it, but there appears to be wide interest.

"One of the major benefits of this program is that it will provide a consistent process for certification for all of the different states that adopt it," Jamie Remes with VR Systems, a provider of electronic pollbooks and election management systems, said during a recent event organized to discuss the testing program.

The South Carolina Election Commission, which has developed its own voter registration system, was among the offices participating in the center's testing pilot. Commission member Brian Leach said during the recent panel discussion that he saw one benefit of the program as helping "increase voter confidence in what we are doing."

Confidence in elections, particularly among Republicans, has decreased amid a sustained campaign by former President Donald Trump and his allies to discredit the results of the 2020 presidential election. There is no evidence of widespread fraud or manipulation of voting equipment in 2020, backed up by exhaustive reviews in states lost by Trump.

The center has not been immune to the assault on U.S. elections and has faced various claims related to its work. Online posts have sought to raise questions about its funding, purpose and the services it provides to state and local election offices.

The center receives a mix of federal and private money, and the pilot developed for its testing program got support from the Democracy Fund, which was started by eBay founder Pierre Omidyar, a donor to Democratic campaigns and liberal causes. The testing program itself is funded

solely by the center and eventually is to be supported entirely with fees paid by technology providers, according to the center.

Meanwhile, the federal commission is pursuing its own testing program for electronic pollbooks. Earlier this year, agency officials said they are making progress with their pilot program but that it was unlikely standards could be in place before the 2024 election.

As the use of electronic systems has grown, they have proved an attractive target for those seeking to meddle in U.S. elections.

In 2016, Russian hackers scanned state voter registration systems looking for vulnerabilities and accessed the voter registration database in Illinois, although an investigation later determined no voter data was manipulated. In 2020, Iranian hackers obtained confidential voter data and used it to send misleading emails, seeking to spread misinformation and influence the election. Experts say the systems could be prime targets again for those seeking to disrupt voting and sow doubts about the security of elections. Gaining access to a voter registration database, for example, could allow someone to delete voters from the rolls. When people show up to vote, they would be told they are not on the list and forced to cast a provisional ballot.

In Detroit last November, a few polling locations had brief delays checking in voters related to a data error that was quickly identified and resolved. Trump seized on the early reports, calling the situation in Detroit "REALLY BAD" in a social media post and urging people to "Protest, Protest, Protest!"

"It's not just about product testing," said Jared Dearing, the center's senior director of election security and the former director of the Kentucky Board of Elections. "It's increasing the security posture of the companies that are creating these products." □

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## Pollution lawsuit could curb use of aerial fire retardant

By MATTHEW BROWN

Associated Press

**BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)** — A legal dispute in Montana could drastically curb the government's use of aerial fire retardant to combat wildfires after environmentalists raised concerns about waterways that are being polluted with the potentially toxic red slurry that's dropped from aircraft. A coalition that includes Paradise, California — where a 2018 blaze killed 85 people and destroyed the town — said a court ruling against the U.S. Forest Service in the case could put lives, homes and forests at risk.

An advocacy group that's suing the agency claims officials are flouting a federal clean water law by continuing to use retardant without taking adequate precautions to protect streams and rivers.

The group, Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, requested an injunction blocking officials from using aerial retardant until they get a pollution permit. The dispute comes as wildfires across North America have grown bigger and more destructive over the past two decades because climate change, people moving into fire-prone areas, and overgrown forests are creating more catastrophic megafires that are harder to fight.

Forest Service officials acknowledged in court filings



An aircraft drops fire retardant to slow the spread of the Richard Spring fire, east of Lame Deer, Mont., on Aug. 11, 2021.

that retardant has been dropped into waterways more than 200 times over the past decade. They said it happens usually by mistake and in less than 1% of the thousands of drops annually, and that environmental damage from fires can exceed the pollution from retardant.

"The only way to prevent accidental discharges of retardant to waters is to prohibit its use entirely," government attorneys wrote. "Such a prohibition would be tantamount to a complete ban of aerial discharges of retardant."

Government officials and

firefighters say fire retardant can be crucial to slowing the advance of a blaze so firefighters can try to stop it.

"It buys you time," said Scott Upton, a former region chief and air attack group supervisor for California's state fire agency. "We live in a populous state — there are people everywhere. It's a high priority for us to be able to use the retardant, catch fires when they're small."

Forest Service officials said they are trying to come into compliance with the law by getting a pollution permit but that could take years.

"The Forest Service says it

should be allowed to pollute, business as usual," said Andy Stahl, who leads the Eugene, Oregon-based group behind the lawsuit. "Our position is that business as usual is illegal."

A ruling from U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen is expected sometime after the opposing sides present their arguments during a Monday hearing in federal court in Missoula.

Christensen denied a request to intervene in the case by the coalition that includes Paradise, other California communities and trade groups such as the Califor-

nia Forestry Association. The judge is allowing the coalition's attorney to present brief arguments.

As the 2023 fire season gets underway, California Forestry Association President Matt Dias said the prospect of not having fire retardant available to a federal agency that plays a key role on many blazes was "terrifying."

"The devastation that could occur as a result of the Forest Service losing that tool could be just horrific," Dias said.

More than 100 million gallons (378 million liters) of fire retardant were used during the past decade, according to the Department of Agriculture. It's made up of water and other ingredients including fertilizers or salts that can be harmful to fish, frogs, crustaceans and other aquatic animals. A government study found misapplied retardant could adversely affect dozens of imperiled species, including crawfish, spotted owls and fish such as shiners and suckers.

Health risks to firefighters or other people who come into contact with fire retardant are considered low, according to a 2021 risk assessment commissioned by the Forest Service.

To keep streams from getting polluted, officials in recent years have avoided drops inside buffer zones within 300 feet (92 meters) of waterways. □

Associated Press

## Biden expected to tap Julie Rodriguez to run 2024 campaign

By AAMER MADHANI

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden is expected to tap Julie Rodriguez, a senior White House adviser, to manage his reelection campaign, a person familiar with deliberations on the matter said Sunday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Rodriguez's appointment has not been finalized and Biden has yet to formally launch his reelection campaign. CBS News was first to report that Biden has decided to pick Rodriguez.

Rodriguez, a longtime Democratic party activ-

ist, also worked in former President Barack Obama's White House. She's the granddaughter of labor leader Cesar Chavez and labor activist Helen Fabela Chávez.

She has served as Biden's director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs since the beginning of his presidency and added the senior adviser role last June.

Rodriguez also has deep ties to Vice President Kamala Harris. She served on Harris' Senate staff and on Harris' 2020 presidential campaign as national political director and traveling

chief of staff. She went on to be hired by Biden's 2020 presidential campaign as a deputy campaign manager and senior adviser for Latino outreach.

Biden is expected to formally announce his 2024 reelection campaign as soon as this week, according to three people briefed on the discussions.

The people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said they were not aware that a final decision on timing had been made, but that Biden had been eyeing Tuesday, April 25, four years to the day since



White House Intergovernmental Affairs director Julie Chavez Rodriguez stands outside the White House on June 9, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

the Democrat entered the 2020 race. The upcoming announcement is expect-

ed to be in the form of a video released to supporters. □



# Alabama education director ousted over book's stance on race

By **KIM CHANDLER**

**Associated Press**

**MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)**

— Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey on Friday announced she replaced her director of early childhood education over the use of a teacher training book, written by a nationally recognized education group, that the Republican governor denounced as teaching “woke concepts” because of language about inclusion and structural racism. Barbara Cooper was forced out as head of the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education after Ivey expressed concern over the distribution of the book to state-run pre-kindergartens. Ivey spokesperson Gina Maiola identified the book as the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Developmentally Appropriate Practice Book, 4th edition. Maiola said she understands that the books have been removed from the state classrooms.

“The education of Alabama’s children is my top priority as governor, and there is absolutely no room to distract or take away from this mission. Let me be crystal clear: Woke concepts that have zero to do with a proper education and that are divisive at the core have no place in Alabama classrooms at any age level, let alone with our youngest learners,” Ivey



**Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey delivers her State of the State address, Tuesday, March 7, 2023, in Montgomery, Ala.**

said in a statement.

Ivey’s statement comes as conservative politicians have made a rallying cry out of decrying so-called “woke” teachings, with schools sometimes emerging as a flashpoint over diversity training and parents’ rights.

The governor’s office said Ivey first asked Cooper to “send a memo to disavow this book and to immediately discontinue its use.” Ivey’s office did not say how Cooper responded but that the governor made the decision to replace Cooper and accepted her resignation. Cooper could not immediately be reached for comment.

The book is a guide for early childhood educators. It is

not a curriculum taught to children.

The governor’s office, in a press release, cited two examples from the book — one discussing white privilege and that “the United States is built on systemic and structural racism” and another that Ivey’s office claimed teaches LGBTQ+ inclusion to 4-year-olds. Those sections, according to a copy of the 881-page book obtained by The Associated Press, discuss combating bias and making sure that all children feel welcome.

“Early childhood programs also serve and welcome families that represent many compositions. Children from all families (e.g., single parent, grandpar-

ent-led, foster, LGBTQIA+) need to hear and see messages that promote equality, dignity, and worth,” the book states.

The section on structural racism states that “systemic and structural racism ... has permeated every institution and system through policies and practices that position people of color in oppressive, repressive, and menial positions. The early education system is not immune to these forces.” It says preschool is one place where children “begin to see how they are represented in society” and that the classroom should be a place of “affirmation and healing.”

NAEYC is a national accrediting board that works

to provide high-quality education materials and resources for young children. In an emailed response to The Associated Press, the group did not address Ivey’s statements but said the book is a research-based resource for educators. “For nearly four decades, and in partnership with hundreds of thousands of families and educators, Developmentally Appropriate Practice has served as the foundation for high-quality early childhood education across all states and communities. While not a curriculum, it is a responsive, educator-developed, educator-informed, and research-based resource that has been honed over multiple generations to support teachers in helping all children thrive and reach their full potential,” the statement read.

Cooper is a member of the NAEYC board. In a previously published statement on the organization’s website about the latest edition of the book, Cooper said that book teaches, “applicable skills for teaching through developmentally appropriate practices that build brains during the critical first five years of life.”

Alabama’s First Class voluntary pre-kindergarten program operates more than 1,400 classrooms across the state. The program has won high ratings from the National Institute for Early Education Research. □



**The cruiser Celebrity Equinox built by the shipyard Meyer in Papenburg, Germany, goes down the river Ems near Gandersum on Saturday, June 20, 2009.**

**Associated Press**

**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)**

— A widow and her family

are suing Celebrity Cruises for allegedly mishandling

## Cruise line let passenger’s body decompose, lawsuit says

her husband’s body after he died while they were on a ship last year, saying it was left to decompose and they suffered extreme emotional trauma.

After Marilyn Jones’ husband of 55 years, Robert Jones, died of a heart attack Aug. 15 onboard the Celebrity Equinox, his body was stored for nearly a week inside a walk-in cooler normally used for beverages instead of a properly chilled morgue as she was

promised, according to the federal lawsuit filed in Florida.

That left the body bloated and green, and the family was unable to have an open-coffin funeral “which was a long standing family custom and was what his family had desired,” the lawsuit says. Marilyn Jones, her two daughters and three grandchildren are seeking \$1 million in damages.

Celebrity Cruises declined

to comment, citing the case’s sensitivity and “out of respect for the family.” The Celebrity Equinox, which cruises the Caribbean year-round out of Fort Lauderdale, is flagged out of Malta and can carry almost 3,000 passengers and 1,200 crew members.

According to the lawsuit, which was filed Wednesday in Fort Lauderdale, after Robert Jones died, his widow was given two choices by crew members. □



## Diplomats flee Sudan fighting as citizens struggle to escape

**KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)**

— Foreign governments evacuated diplomats, staff and others from Sudan on Sunday as rival generals battled for a ninth day with no sign of a truce that had been declared for a major Muslim holiday.

While world powers like the U.S. and Britain airlifted their diplomats from the capital of Khartoum, Sudanese desperately sought to flee the chaos. Many risked dangerous roads to cross the northern border into Egypt.

"My family -- my mother, my siblings and my nephews -- are on the road from Sudan to Cairo through Aswan," prominent Sudanese filmmaker Amjad Abual-Ala wrote on Facebook. Fighting raged in Omdurman, a city across the Nile from Khartoum, residents said, despite a hoped-for cease-fire to coincide with the three-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

"We did not see such a truce," Amin al-Tayed said from his home near state TV headquarters in Omdurman, adding that heavy gunfire and thundering explosions rocked the city.

Over 420 people, including 264 civilians, have been killed and over 3,700 wounded in fighting between the Sudanese armed forces and the powerful paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF.

The RSF said the armed forces unleashed airstrikes on the upscale neighborhood of Kafouri, north of Khartoum. There was no immediate army comment.

The ongoing violence has affected operations at the main international airport, destroying civilian planes and damaging at least one runway, and thick, black smoke rose above it. Other airports also have been knocked out of operation. European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell tweeted he had spoken with the rival commanders, urging an immediate cease-fire to protect civilians and the evacuation of EU citizens.

In other fighting, a senior



In this photo provided by Maheen S, smoke fills the sky in Khartoum, Sudan, near Doha International Hospital on Friday, April 21, 2023.

Associated Press

military official said it repelled an RSF attack on Kober Prison in Khartoum where Sudan's longtime ruler, Omar al-Bashir, and former officials in his movement have been held since his 2019 ouster. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media, said a number of prisoners fled but al-Bashir and other high-profile inmates were in a "highly secure" area, adding that "a few prisoners" were killed or wounded.

The RSF claimed the military removed al-Bashir and other prisoners from the facility, although the statement could not be independently confirmed.

The Arqin border crossing with Egypt was crowded with about 30 passenger buses of at least 55 people each, said Suliman al-Kouni, an Egyptian student who fled northward from Khartoum with dozens of other students.

"We traveled 15 hours on land at our own risk," al-Kouni told The Associated Press by phone. "But many of our friends are still trapped in Sudan."

Sudan experienced a "near-total collapse" of internet and phone service Sunday, according to the monitoring service Net-Blocks.

"It's possible that infrastructure has been damaged or sabotaged," said Net-blocks director Alp Toker. "This will have a major ef-

fect on residents' ability to stay safe and will impact the evacuation programs that are ongoing."

After a week of battles that hindered rescues, U.S. special forces swiftly evacuated 70 U.S. Embassy staffers from Khartoum to Ethiopia early Sunday. Although American officials said it was too dangerous for a government-coordinated evacuation of thousands of private citizens, other countries scrambled to remove their citizens as well as their diplomats.

France and Italy said they would accommodate all their citizens who want to leave, as well as those of other countries who could not otherwise join an evacuation operation.

French President Emmanuel Macron and his foreign minister were given security guarantees by both sides for the evacuation, according to Defense and Foreign Ministry officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to talk publicly. Two French flights took off Sunday from Khartoum to Djibouti, carrying about 200 people from various countries, and more were planned Monday, according to another French military official speaking anonymously under the same rules.

Italy's Defense Ministry said two C-130s landed at Khartoum airport to airlift evacuees — including those from other European

countries — to a military base in Djibouti in the Gulf of Aden, and another flight was planned for Monday.

Other flights from Sudan were organized by Jordan, Spain, Germany, Greece and the Netherlands.

Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak tweeted that U.K. armed forces evacuated British diplomatic staff and dependents "amid a significant escalation in violence and threats."

Overland travel through contested areas was possible but dangerous. Khartoum is about 840 kilometers (520 miles) from Port Sudan on the Red Sea.

On Saturday, Saudi Arabia said it evacuated 157 people, including 91 Saudi nationals and citizens of other countries. Saudi state TV showed a large convoy of cars and buses from Khartoum to Port Sudan, where a navy ship took them to the Saudi port of Jeddah.

Fighters attacked a U.S. Embassy convoy last week, and stormed the home of the EU ambassador. Violence wounded an Egyptian Embassy employee in Sudan, according to Egypt's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Abu Zaid.

Egypt, which said it had over 10,000 citizens in Sudan, urged those in cities other than Khartoum to head to consular offices in Port Sudan and Wadi Halfa in the north for evacuation, the state-run MENA news agency reported. □

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## 39 bodies dug up in cult investigation of pastor in Kenya

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)** — Thirty-nine bodies have been found so far on land owned by a pastor in coastal Kenya who was arrested for telling his followers to fast to death.

Malindi sub-county police chief John Kemboi said that more shallow graves have yet to be dug up on the land belonging to pastor Paul Makenzi, who was arrested on April 14 over links to cultism.

The total death toll is 43, because a further four people died after they and others were discovered starving at the Good News International Church last week.

Police have asked a court to allow them to hold Makenzi longer as investigations into the deaths of his followers continue.

A tipoff from members of the public led police to raid the pastor's property in



**Police and local residents load the exhumed bodies of victims of a religious cult into the back of a truck in the village of Shakahola, near the coastal city of Malindi, in southern Kenya Sunday, April 23, 2023.**

**Associated Press**

Malindi, where they found 15 emaciated people, including the four who later

died. The followers said they were starving on the pastor's instructions in order to meet Jesus.

Police had been told there were dozens of shallow graves spread across Makenzi's farm and digging started on Friday.

Makenzi has been on hunger strike for the past four days while in police custody.

The pastor has been arrested twice before, in 2019 and in March of this year, in relation to the deaths of children. Each time, he was released on bond, and both cases are still proceeding through the court. Local politicians have urged the court not to release him this time, decrying the spread of cults in the Malindi area.

Cults are common in Kenya, which has a largely religious society. □

## Indian police arrest Sikh separatist leader after long hunt

**By ASHOK SHARMA and PRABHJOT GILL**

**Associated Press**

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — Indian police on Sunday arrested a separatist leader who has revived calls for an independent Sikh homeland and the secession of India's northern Punjab state, which has a history of violent insurgency.

Amritpal Singh had been on the run since last month after capturing national attention in February, when hundreds of his supporters stormed a police station in Ajnala, a town in Punjab state, with wooden batons, swords and guns to demand the release of a jailed aide.

Punjab state police tweeted Sunday that Singh was arrested in Moga, a town in the state. A Sikh religious leader, Jasbir Singh Rodde, said Singh surrendered after offering morning prayers at a Sikh shrine in Moga.

Police officer Sukhchain Singh Gill said police had surrounded the village on intelligence that Singh was in the shrine. "Relentless pressure built by the police

over the past 35 days left Singh with no choice," Gill told reporters.

He said the police didn't enter the shrine, implying that Singh was taken into custody after he left. Gill declined to confirm whether Singh surrendered as claimed by his supporters. Singh was flown to Dibrugarh in India's northeast where he will be detained until he is brought to court to face charges.

Punjab suffered a bloody insurgency in the 1980s that led to the killing of India's then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards at her official residence in New Delhi. Her assassination in 1984 triggered bloody rioting by her Hindu supporters against Sikhs in northern India.

Ashwini Dubey, a lawyer in Punjab state, said Singh's arrest would help police dismantle the separatist network and its supporters. Tavleen Singh, a political commentator and former journalist who covered the Punjab insurgency in the 1980s, said: "The police took this man out, which is

good because had they gone into a gurdwara (Sikh shrine), and started shooting you would have had a reaction from the general populous. The Sikhs happen to be very sensitive to gurdwaras being attacked."

Sikhs are a religious minority in India and say they are discriminated against by the majority Hindus. More than 3,000 people were killed by extremists during the 1980s insurgency in the prosperous farming state. The insurgency was crushed by Indian forces by 1990. Punjab borders India-controlled Kashmir and Pakistan. India accuses Pakistan of supporting, training and arming insurgents, a charge Islamabad denies.

Police declared Singh, a 30-year-old preacher, a fugitive and accused him and his aides of creating discord in the state. Police accused them of spreading disharmony among people, attempted murder, attacking police personnel and obstructing public servants' lawful discharge of duty.

Authorities have deployed thousands of paramilitary soldiers in the state and arrested nearly 100 of his supporters. Singh's wife was prevented from leaving India last week.

Very little was known about Singh until he arrived in Punjab state in 2022 and began leading marches calling for the protection of rights for Sikhs, who account for about 1.7% of India's population.

Singh claims to draw inspiration from Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a Sikh militant leader accused by the Indian government of leading an armed insurgency for Khalistan in the 1980s. Bhindranwale and his supporters were killed in 1984 when the Indian army stormed the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine in the Sikh religion.

Singh has styled himself after Bhindranwale, with a long, flowing beard. He also dresses like Bhindranwale. Singh also heads Waris Punjab De, or Punjab's Heirs, an organization that was part of a massive campaign to mobilize farmers against

controversial agriculture reforms being pushed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. The legislation triggered a year of protests that began in 2020, as farmers — most of them Sikhs from Punjab state — camped on the outskirts of New Delhi through a harsh winter and devastating coronavirus surge. The protests ended after Modi's government withdrew the legislation in November 2021.

Waris Punjab De was founded by Deep Sidhu, an Indian actor who died in 2022 in a traffic accident. Singh's speeches have become increasingly popular among supporters of the Khalistan movement, which is banned in India. Officials see it and affiliated groups as a national security threat. Even though the movement has waned over the years, it still has some support in Punjab and beyond — including in countries like Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom, which are home to a sizable Sikh diaspora. □





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## Aruba to open its maritime border with Venezuela on May 1st

*"I hope this decision can provide necessary relief for the community of Aruba"*

(Oranjestad)—Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes announces to the community of Aruba that the maritime border with Venezuela will be open starting from May 1st, 2023. The prime ministers indicated that conditions are known and that the necessary documents have already been received. This time, the conditions for opening the border is much stricter than before, and all departments involved are ready to attend with the re-opening of the maritime border.

With this, cargo ships from Venezuela may dock at the Barcadera bay following established procedures. Local authorities will have all necessary documents before the ships leave Venezuela. With these documents, the authorities will be well-informed on who will be arriving and what product they will be bringing in the island. Crewmembers are required to stay on deck and are not allowed to leave the bay premises. In the past, crewmembers were allowed to enter the land and sell their products, but this is no longer possible with the new conditions. Each ship will be assigned a local agent that will take the cargo from the ship, and this agent will make sure to sell the products. Ships and crewmembers are only allowed to stay on the island for a maximum of two days before sailing back to Venezuela.

"I hope that this decision to re-open the maritime border can help to bring necessary relief for the community of



Aruba. The government will continue to discuss the processes relating to re-opening of the aerial border with Venezuela and will keep the public informed on any new developments," the prime minister expressed. □



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## Over a decade in business, Aruba Living Today: Offering the so much needed human touch



**NOORD —** We are in 2023. It was a wild ride with Covid-19 and we all are aiming for a change of routine. We simply want to "live" life again. "It is time for living your dream," as the quote says at Aruba Living Today's office. "We are fifteen plus years in business, and I am proud to say that all our clients stuck with us. We are no part of a big company, we keep it small, personal, and real. Because you are not a number, no sales target either and certainly your name is not commission. Our responsibility is to make your dream come true," says owner Randolph Arends.

### From human to human

If you have decided to buy a house or rent one for vacation in Aruba and you are looking for that match, the question now is how to click with a person that offers a personal touch? One who pays genuine attention and has sincere interest in what you want?

This different approach to real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart, and the reason Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal

touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion, and I can only do this from the heart."

### One stop shopping point

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Randolph and his business partner Eladio Max Maduro. Born in Aruba, he was raised in the Netherlands. Max was Corporal mandatory in the Dutch Army/Genie der Landmacht.

He also studied financial administration in the Netherlands, and has a degree in Dutch insurance law. Max has 40 years work experience in all kind of insurance, specialized liability and pension law. In the past, he worked for local and international insurance brokers companies.



As per March 1st 2023, he is working as a commercial partner at Aruba Living Today.

### You are welcome to meet in person

Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. Candles, Buddha ornaments and a homey setting form the décor for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. "My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the perfect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch."

Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40 % local buyers and 60 % foreign buyers. "Our customers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages." Besides that, Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers.

As a member of the Aruban Real Estate Association, they are listed also on the website [www.arubalisting.com](http://www.arubalisting.com) within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island.

Aruba Living Today is featured on House Hunters, social media, Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today's newspaper. □

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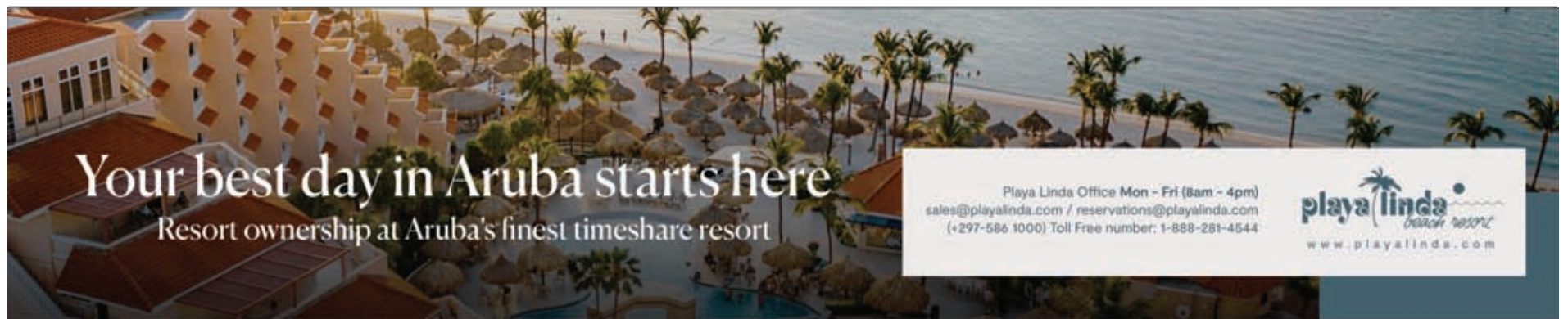
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## Leatherback Sea Turtle Season has started

**The Leatherback Sea Turtles nesting in Aruba don't live in the Caribbean, but in the Northern part of the Atlantic Ocean, as far as Nova Scotia, Canada.**

But they are born on Aruba's beaches. After 20 – 30 years they reach maturity and then return to their natal beach to nest during the turtle nesting season (March – July). It is very impressive to see a huge sea turtle coming ashore, enjoy the sight, but make sure that the turtle does not see you! Stay out of her sight at a distance of at least 10 meters.

The picture was taken at Eagle Beach, last Sunday early morning. Normally sea turtle females will nest at night. All species of sea turtles are endangered and need our protection.

### What you can do to protect sea turtles:

Lights out for sea turtles. Nighttime activities and artificial lighting may deter adult females from nesting. So PLEASE keep all lights off, including flashlights, flash photography and video equipment. "Sea turtles dig the dark"

Ask your hotel manager to turn off or minimize the lights that are visible on the beach in front of the resort. Close the curtains of your room at night to prevent light shining on the beach.

Do not drive on beaches. Not all turtle nests on all the beaches around Aruba are marked. Vehicles (4x4, quads) can crush the eggs and will compact the sand. Driving on a beach is not good for the condition of the sand (and for our own condition it is better to walk!)

Do not litter. Do not leave any plastic cups, straws, bags, balloons on the beach. The wind will blow it into the sea. A floating plastic bag is easily mistaken for a jellyfish, the Leatherback Sea Turtle's favorite food.

Remove obstacles from the beach. Obstacles as beach furniture or recreational equipment may cause nesting females to abort their nesting attempt or may even trap them. So don't leave any beach chairs at night unattended close to the sea but make a stack as far as possible away from the water.

Do not disturb a nesting sea turtle. Do not attempt to touch the turtle but stay at a respectful distance (at least 10 meters). Do allow the turtle to complete the full nesting



process (about two hours) and don't be in her way when she returns to the sea. Do call Turtugaruba (24-hour Turtle Hotline: (297) 5929393, Follow Turtugaruba at [www.facebook.com/Turtugaruba](https://www.facebook.com/Turtugaruba).

If you witness a sea turtle, or if you see turtle crawl marks, during a late evening or early morning stroll on the beach please do call Turtugaruba. Thanks a lot! ☐



**Beauty & THE BEACH**

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Angie and Connor from Pennsylvania**. They came through a recommendation from in-laws and so far they are loving their experience. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

This segment is sponsored by **Alhambra Casino and Shops**.

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# Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

## Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year- round.



## Druif

There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.



## Shimarucu

Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).



## Kenepa

Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

## Tamarind

A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March. □



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## International Jazz Day to be celebrated in San Nicolas on April 30th



**(Oranjestad)—International Jazz Day is a day in which jazz is celebrated to promote peace, freedom of expressions, respect for each other, human right and to further develop understanding and acceptance across different cultures.**

In an interview with Aruba Today, musician Carlos Bislip informed that on April 30th, the world celebrates International Jazz Day. Aruba is also preparing for this

celebration with a showcase including several jazz groups.

Falling on a Sunday, this celebration will take place in San Nicolas at Kulture Café from 7pm to 11pm, and will include a musical band of students called Caribbean Combo. Joining the students will be two American musicians who just graduated from Jazz studies.

The showcase will be opening with Caribbean Combo. Next up, Eric Jan Eman

and the Groove Hunters will be giving their performance playing Jazz Funky. The third group includes Carlos Bislip with his quintet. Then, Reno Steba with his band Oruba will take the mic. Reno and his band experiment with traditional Aruban music and Jazz. Lastly, the Franklin Grana-dillo Band will close the show.

Bislip shares with our reporter that he learned about the Smithsonian Institute in Washington in 2006, when he went to an international conference of jazz teachers held in New York. The institute dedicates the entire month of April to Jazz, calling it "Jazz Appreciation Month". During April, they encourage international members and jazz teachers to share their knowledge and talent with their home countries.

When Bislip arrived back Aruba, he started organizing events for International Jazz Day on Aruba, which at that time took place in Cas di Cultura in the downtown area.

The following years, he held events in front of the National Library, where he gathered young artists with professional musicians to play.



"I kept organizing showcases for International Jazz Day at different locations. This year will mark 18 years that I've done this, not including the pandemic years," Bislip stated.

On Aruba, there are different Jazz musicians, and the idea for this yearly event is to actually stretch this out for two days, but Bislip expressed that they have yet to acquire enough funding to make this happen.

He expressed that Jazz is the internal language that connects different communities with each other. For this reason, UNESCO declared April 30th to be International Jazz Day: "UNESCO realized that Jazz, in particular, is one of the few musical genres that really connects people. This is why I invite the Aruban public and our visitors to attend this once-a-year event, where you will get to

see both young local artists and foreign professionals play Jazz together. This year, our lineup is going to be very diverse; it will be an exciting evening for music. Entrance is free, and if anyone would like to reserve their table at Kulture Café, they most certainly can get in contact with the café," Bislip assured.

UNESCO officially established International Jazz Day back in 2011, with the goal to promote a musical movement with a high educational value as well as being a valuable resource that contributes to cultural exchange, dialogue and cooperation between people worldwide.

Jazz is a musical genre that includes African-American melody and a mix of other rhythms, based on improvisation and free interpretation. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Resting

1 Torture on device

5 Carell of movies

10 Lotion additive

11 Broad-way's Bernadette

13 Gaunt

14 Bored by routine

15 Stuck, so to speak

17 Wedding words

18 Signifies

19 Light metal

20 Farm animal

21 Blanchett of "Tár"

22 Like ghost stories

25 Finishes last

26 Chuck of "Meet the Press"

27 "2001" computer

28 Hosp. parts

29 Gets rid of

33 Cut off

34 Fretting

35 Confused

37 Past due

38 Century division

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O	P	A	Q	U	E	N	O	V	A
R	E	P	U	T	E	S	L	I	P
A	R	E	A	S	R	E	C	A	P
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			E	X	A	M	N	O	D
			U	R	S	A	M	A	J
			S	P	A	X	E	N	A
			O	R	I	G	I	N	M
			L	I	N	U	S	M	A
			A	V	I	S	M	A	I
			C	E	N	T	A	R	C
			E	R	G	O	T	E	A

Saturday's answer

## DOWN

1 Overly eager

2 Without aid

3 Movie barbarian

4 Computer need

5 Book parts

6 Watches over

7 Greek vowel

8 Harvard motto

9 Learned

12 Boulders

16 Tiny parts

21 Diner side

22 Un-dish

23 Tiara's kin

24 News-paper

25 Hot flow

27 Door

29 Elec-tronics

30 Country division

31 Wyo-ming's —

32 Used a broom

36 Diet no-no

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
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13				14					
15				16				17	
18								19	
			20				21		
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26					27				
28				29			30	31	32
33				34					
35			36				37		
38							39		
	40						41		

A XYDI B A A X R  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-24 CRYPTOQUOTE

B C M D N Y J I Y P G M J Q P I R C I

R I Z C G B I N B M M P Q E P U L N

T P C K I R C G U G Y I Q J K P U L N B I .

— V Y V P A Q C G O B M

Saturday's Cryptoquote: WHAT I HEAR WHEN I'M BEING YELLED AT IS PEOPLE CARING REALLY LOUDLY AT ME. — LESLIE KNOPE, "PARKS AND RECREATION"

## Struggling Bed Bath & Beyond files for bankruptcy protection

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Bed Bath & Beyond — one of the original big box retailers known for its seemingly endless offerings of sheets, towels and kitchen gadgets — filed for bankruptcy protection, following years of dismal sales and losses and numerous failed turnaround plans.

The beleaguered home goods chain made the filing Sunday in U.S. District Court in New Jersey and said it will start an orderly wind down of its operations, while seeking a buyer for all or some of its businesses. In the bankruptcy filing, the retailer said it anticipates closing all of its stores by June 30.

For now, the company's 360 Bed Bath & Beyond stores and its 120 Buy Buy Baby sites as well as its websites will remain open to serve customers.

It listed estimated assets and liabilities in the range of \$1 billion to \$10 billion. The move comes after the company failed to secure funds to stay afloat.

In a statement, the company, based in Union, New Jersey, said it voluntarily made the filing "to implement an orderly wind down of its businesses while conducting a limited marketing process to solicit interest in one or more sales of some or all of its assets."

The store closings will put thousands of jobs at risk. The company employed 14,000 workers, according to the court filing. That's drastically down from the 32,000 as of February 2022. Bed Bath & Beyond said it secured a commitment of roughly \$240 million in fi-



A Bed Bath & Beyond customer enters a store in Mountain View, Calif., Wednesday, May 9, 2012.

Associated Press

nancing from Sixth Street Specialty Lending, Inc. to allow it to keep operating during the bankruptcy process.

Founded in 1971, Bed Bath & Beyond had for years enjoyed its status as a big box retailer that offered a vast selection of sheets, towels and gadgets unmatched by department store rivals. It was among the first to introduce shoppers to many of today's household items like the air fryer or single-serve coffee maker, and its 15% to 20% coupons were ubiquitous.

But for the last decade or so, Bed Bath & Beyond struggled with weak sales, largely because of its messy assortments and lagging online strategy that made it hard to compete with the likes of Target and Walmart, both of which have spruced up their home departments with higher quality sheets and beddings. Meanwhile, online players like Wayfair have lured customers with affordable and trendy fur-

niture and home décor. In late 2019, Bed Bath & Beyond tapped Target executive Mark Tritton to take the helm and turn around sales.

Tritton quickly reduced coupons and started to introduce store label brands at the expense of national labels, a strategy that proved disastrous for the retailer.

And the pandemic, which happened shortly after his arrival, forced the retailer to temporarily close its stores. It was never able to use the health crisis to pivot to a successful online strategy as others had, analysts said. And while many retailers were grappling with supply chain issues a year ago, Bed Bath was among the most vulnerable, missing many of its 200 best-selling items including kitchen appliances and personal electronics, during the holiday 2021 season.

The retailer ousted Tritton in June 2022 after two back-to-back quarters of disastrous sales. In recent months, the company, under the stewardship of recently appointed president and CEO Sue Grove, went back to its original strategy of focusing on national brands, instead of pushing its own store labels. But the company has had a hard time having suppliers commit to delivering merchandise because of the retailer's financial woes. □

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## Racial gap in U.S. stroke deaths widened during pandemic

By MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The longstanding racial gap in U.S. stroke death rates widened dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, government researchers said Thursday.

Stroke death rates increased for both Black and white adults in 2020 and 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study. But the difference between the two groups grew about 22%, compared with the five years before the pandemic.

"Any health inequity that existed before seems to have been made larger during the pandemic," said Dr. Bart Demaerschalk, a stroke researcher at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix who was not involved in the new study. "This is another example of that."

During a stroke, something blocks or reduces blood flow to part of the brain or a blood vessel in the brain bursts. It can result in brain damage or long-term disability and is the nation's fifth leading cause of death.

Until about a decade ago, the U.S. stroke death rate was falling because of improved treatment and reduced smoking rates. The decline halted in 2013 at about 70 per 100,000 adults 35 and older. Experts think increases in obesity and related conditions finally offset some of things that had been driving stroke deaths down.

It climbed the last few years, rising to nearly 77 in 2021.

Black Americans have long had a higher stroke death rate than their white counterparts, a gap that was fairly steady for decades. In 2021, according to the new study, the Black stroke death rate for Americans aged 35 and older rose from about 101 per 100,000 before the pandemic to about 113. The white rate rose from about 70 per 100,000 to 75. The difference between those two measures rose from 31 to 38, a 22% in-



Tombstones mark graves at the Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Portsmouth, Va., Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

Associated Press

crease. The paper joins a growing number of studies that detected a disproportionately large increase in minority stroke death rates since the pandemic began. What drove the increases?

Doctors say COVID-19 infection can raise the risk of stroke. This mainly happens in severe COVID-19 illness, and the problem is worse in people that already have partially blocked blood vessels because of other conditions.

Patients with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and a history of smoking seemed to be at highest risk, according to a study led by Demaer-

schalk that was published last year. But the virus probably wasn't the only factor, Demaerschalk said.

Obesity may have worsened, he said. People probably saw their doctors less often. And many were reluctant to go to a hospital when stroke symptoms developed — especially in the early days of the pandemic, when fear of catching the new virus may have surpassed concerns about stroke symptoms, he added.

"Time is absolutely of the essence" in treating strokes, Demaerschalk said.

So people were less likely to get medical care at the same time the risk of stroke

was rising. And that "mismatch" may have been more pronounced for some Black people, because of lack of access of medical care and risk factors for COVID-19 and stroke, he said. □



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## Avalanche lean on stars to reclaim control of series



Colorado Avalanche left wing J.T. Compher, second from left, celebrates his goal against the Seattle Kraken with Devon Toews (7), Andrew Cogliano (11) and Cale Makar (8) during the first period of Game 3 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup first-round playoff series Saturday, April 22, 2023, in Seattle.

Associated Press

By **TIM BOOTH**  
AP Sports Writer

**SEATTLE (AP)** — It's taken only three games for Nathan MacKinnon to declare this the toughest first-round series of his career.

Colorado's star made it look pretty easy with his two goals in Game 3 as the Avalanche reclaimed control of their opening playoff series.

"This is definitely the hardest first round I've been in," MacKinnon said. "I think sometimes the last few years we've been a top seed and we've not gotten easy teams by any means, but I think this Seattle team is a 100-point team and they're really good, and we're gonna have to continue to do our best to beat them."

MacKinnon was the best offensive player on the ice in Game 3 as the Avalanche beat Seattle 6-4 to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series. Game 4 is Monday night and a victory by Colorado would give it a chance to wrap up the series at home on Wednesday.

But MacKinnon wasn't the only Colorado star to show up in a big way in Game 3. Cale Makar had a goal

and an assist, and Mikko Rantanen had three points, including the tiebreaking goal early in the third period and an empty-net goal in the final minutes to clinch the victory.

"For us, everybody wants to elevate their games and want to play their roles the right way and help each other out," Makar said.

The big game from Colorado's three stars came as uncertainty surfaced about Valeri Nichushkin and when he may play again in this series. Nichushkin is away from the team for personal reasons, Colorado coach Jared Bednar announced after Saturday's victory. Nichushkin was tied for fourth on Colorado's roster with 17 goals in the regular season and his goal in the second period of Game 2 pulled the Avalanche even after Seattle jumped to a 2-0 lead in the opening period.

Bednar said Sunday there is no timeline for when Nichushkin may return. His absence is just another obstacle for the Avs to deal with in a season filled with them.

"We've had to rely on our top guys even more and they've done an amazing

job," Bednar said.

MacKinnon's two-goal performance gave him 10 career playoff games with multiple goals, and just the second player in Avalanche/Nordiques history to reach that benchmark. It also re-established order in the series. Seattle was the better team through Game 1 and the first period of Game 2. But in the past four periods, the defending champs have been the clear better squad in part because of the trio of MacKinnon, Makar and Rantanen stepping forward.

Slowing them down has to be a priority for Seattle if it wants to send the series back to Denver at 2-2.

"There's always gonna be swings in momentum. Sometimes you just gotta play (defense)," Seattle forward Jared McCann said. "I know it's boring. Not everybody wants to hear that, but especially when you're out against guys like MacKinnon and Makar, guys who can fly up the ice, so you got to stay in front of them. You gotta just get chips on them. Make it hard for them to get in the zone. I feel like we can do a better job of that." □



Referee Thomas Taylor counts out Ryan Garcia, who was knocked down by Gervonta Davis in a lightweight boxing bout Saturday, April 22, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

## Garcia ready to get back to work after suffering first loss

By **W.G. RAMIREZ**  
Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Ryan Garcia has already put the first loss of his career in the rearview mirror.

After being stopped in the seventh round by a vicious liver shot from Gervonta Davis (29-0, 27 KOs) on Saturday night that was billed as the year's best fight to date, Garcia (23-1, 19 KOs) said he was disappointed and sad. But he planned on getting right back in the gym and returning whenever he can.

"I'm already looking past it," Garcia told The Associated Press of losing the lightweight bout. "You know, it's all good. Lost today, but ready to get back into it whenever I can, which is in like three months. So from that, get right back into it."

Easier said than done, since Garcia will have to temporarily wear the tag of someone who appeared to get right out of the fight by taking a knee after Davis' wicked left-handed dart to his body.

It was a shot that solidified Davis as one of the sport's pound-for-pound best fighters, and sent Garcia back down boxing's ladder.

Though one of the hardest things for a fighter to overcome is accepting he's no longer undefeated, Garcia walked out of the back of T-Mobile Arena surrounded by his team with nearly the same air of confidence with which he entered.

Next stop for the 24-year-old: 140 pounds.

Garcia, who had his chance to make a bid for a title shot with a victory over Davis, shook his head in agreement when suggested he'd likely have to work his way back through a bevy of fighters before earning a shot at a championship belt, but said he is ready to tackle the junior welterweight division.

One thought is Shakur Stevenson (20-0), who by taking a step up in class would prove his worth before fighting in significant championship bouts. Though Stevenson has carved his way through most of his opponents, both could help one another's career, as Garcia could be a legitimate contender for the 2016 Rio Olympics silver medalist.

Garcia could also turn toward George Kambosos, who would also have to move up a class.

Teófilo López and Josh Taylor are both at 140 and are scheduled to meet on June 10. The loser of that fight would also be hungry for a bounce-back fight that could be an attractive draw for Garcia.

Any of the aforementioned boxers would bring a hefty payday and plenty of attention.

Whomever Garcia faces next remains a mystery, as he wouldn't divulge who he has his sights set on for his next bout. □



# Curry, Warriors hold off Kings 126-125 to even series 2-all

By JANIE McCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Stephen Curry scored 32 points but gave Sacramento a late chance when he called a timeout Golden State didn't have, and the defending champion Warriors held on to beat the Kings 126-125 on Sunday when Harrison Barnes missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer, evening their playoff series at two games apiece.

De'Aaron Fox had 38 points, nine rebounds and five assists for Sacramento. His 3-pointer with 28.7 seconds left pulled the Kings within one, and then Curry missed a 16-foot jumper on the other end and Keegan Murray corralled the rebound.

With Curry and Draymond Green defending, Fox dished to former Warrior Barnes for the potential game-winning 3, which hit the back of the rim.

Golden State led 126-121 with 42.4 seconds left when Curry called the excessive timeout, and Malik Monk made the technical free throw for Sacramento.

Klay Thompson made a baseline 3-pointer to beat the third-quarter buzzer and another with 3:24 left, finishing with 26 points for the Warriors.

Curry's 3 with 4:10 remaining gave Golden State a 121-117 lead and he finished 11 for 22 with five 3s while dueling all afternoon with Fox.

After Monk's layup made it 107-106 Kings with 9:03 to play, Curry responded with a driving layup and a 3 in a 14-second span.

Green came off the bench after serving a one-game suspension while the Warriors dominated Thursday's Game 2 without him.

Given the momentum and success, coach Steve Kerr stuck with Jordan Poole in the starting five Sunday.

Green made a nifty behind-the-back pass for a Curry 3 midway through the fourth, then swatted a shot by Domantas Sabonis with 1:37 left.

Green, disciplined for stepping on Sabonis' chest in

the fourth quarter of Game 2, checked in to a rousing ovation with 6:38 left in the opening quarter and wound up with 12 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists. He and Fox picked up double technicals at the 5:43 mark of the first.

Sabonis added 14 points, seven rebounds and eight assists and now heads home determined to get the Kings closer to winning their first playoff series since eliminating Dallas in the 2004 first round.

Poole scored 22 points, Andrew Wiggins added 18 points and eight rebounds and Kevon Looney pulled down 14 rebounds to go with eight points and six assists.

Murray's 3 with 10:43 left pulled the Kings within 102-



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) looks to drive to the basket against Sacramento Kings guard De'Aaron Fox (5) during the first half of Game 4 in the first round of the NBA basketball playoffs in San Francisco, Sunday, April 23, 2023.

Associated Press

99 after a 7-0 burst to begin the fourth after the 3 by Thompson to end the third put the Warriors ahead 102-92.

Coach Mike Brown in-

structed his young star to "let it fly" and Murray shined in the moment under the matinee lights, scoring 23 points.

Thompson's driving and

dishing is something Kerr pointed to as a success opening up the floor in Game 3 and Thompson penetrated and found Moses Moody for a baseline 3 late in the first.

Golden State moved the ball with snappy passes that created open looks.

## MURRAY'S GROWTH

Murray shot 9 for 13 with five 3s after he went a combined 1 for 8 on 3s and 3 of 13 in the first three games. He had 12 points on 5-for-7 shooting in the first half.

"What he's going through now is invaluable. I couldn't script it better for a young man like himself who's going to be really, really good in this league to be able to hit some adversity in a situation like this, obviously on this level," Brown said. □



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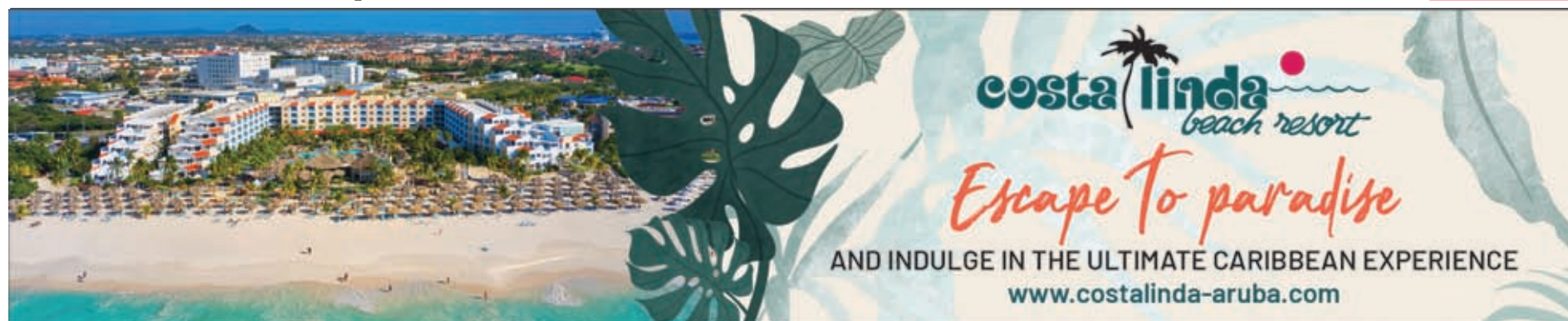
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great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

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From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



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